

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2845

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By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan and others relative to domestic violence programs within the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Services. Public Health.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### PETITION OF:

Benjamin Swan	Shirley Owen-Hicks
Stephen J. Buoniconti	Gloria L. Fox
James R. Miceli	Mary E. Grant
Barbara A. L'Italien	Ellen Story

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 2 of Chapter 18B of the General Laws of Massachu-  
2 setts is hereby amended adding the following to Section 14  
3 therein:— Temporary residential programs, and/or certified  
4 domestic violence programs shall be precluded from arbitrarily, or  
5 as a matter of procedure, transferring local residents who are vic-  
6 tims of domestic violence out of the area. This bill does not  
7 inhibit the transfer of a local resident; however, if a victim of  
8 domestic violence has legitimate reason to believe that she will be  
9 safe in a local facility, then she shall not be prevented from  
10 staying if vacancies are available. No policy or program shall  
11 turn away a local victim of domestic violence in the name of  
12 safety.